

Appln. No. 10/070,645

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1311

II. Remarks

Claims 19-36 are pending in the application. Claim 1-18 have been withdrawn. Claims 19 and 29 have been amended. Claims 21, 25-26 and 33-34 have been cancelled. No new claims have been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 19 is objected to because of informalities. The informalities kindly pointed out by the examiner have been corrected by amendment. Applicant asserts that claim 19 is now in a condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27-31, 33, 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,357,414 issued to Katlinowski et al. (Katlinowski).

Claim amendments render the rejection of claims 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27-31, 33, 35 and 36 moot. More specifically, claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 21 and claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 25 and 26. Katlinowski alone does not teach or suggest the present invention as now claimed in claims 19 and 29.

With regard to claims 20, 22, 23, 27-28, 30, 31, 35 and 36, these claims ultimately depend from either claims 19 or 29 and, therefore, are patentable for at least the same reasons as given in support of claims 19 and 29.

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Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Katlinowski in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,988,119 issued to Trublowski et al. (Trublowski). Claims 24, 26, 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katlinowski.

Applicants assert that Katlinowski is not prior art to the present invention. Both Katlinowski and the present application have the same assignee. The Assignee is Visteon Global Technologies, Inc. as evidenced by the front face of the Katlinowski patent and the attached assignment of the present application. Katlinowski can not be used as prior art under 102(e) as stated in 35 U.S.C § 103(c):

"Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person."

Therefore, claims 21, 24, 26, 32 and 34 are patentable over Katlinowski or Trublowski taken together or separately. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 19 to include the limitations of claim 21 and claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 25 and 26. Allowance of claims 19 and 29 and there dependants are respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

Pending Claims 19, 20, 22-24, 27-32 and 35-36 as amended are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims.

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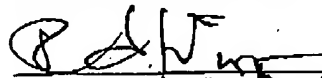
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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

April 29, 2004

Date



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